



PRIORITIZATION OF PROMINENT ROAD-RAIL CONFLICTS

Advisory Panel Meeting

May 23, 2016

MEETING AGENDA

- Welcome & Introductions
- Agenda Overview
- Project Overview
- Existing Materials & Database
- Key Questions & Issues
- Next Meeting
- Roundtable Comments
- Adjourn



ROSTERS AND ROLES

ADVISORY PANEL

1. Paul Roberts, City of Everett, AWC
2. Sean Guard, City of Washougal, AWC
3. Lisa Janicki, Skagit County, WSAC
4. Al French, Spokane County, WSAC
5. Kevin Murphy, Skagit COG
6. Ashley Probart, FMSIB
7. Dave Danner, UTC
8. James Thompson, WPPA
9. Ron Pate, WSDOT
10. Johan Hellman, BNSF

STAFF WORK GROUP

1. Beth Redfield, JTC, Project Manager
2. Mary Fleckenstein, JTC
3. Dave Catterson, AWC
4. Alison Hellberg, AWC
5. Gary Rowe, WSAC
6. Jason Lewis, UTC
7. Amanda Cecil, UTC
8. Sean Ardussi, PSRC
9. Elizabeth Robbins, WSDOT Planning
10. Faris Al-Memar, WSDOT Planning
11. Chris Herman, WSDOT Freight Systems
12. Steven Ogle, Ecology
13. Hayley Gamble, STC
14. Paul Ingiosi, HTC
15. Kathy Cody, OFM
16. Jackson Maynard, SRC
17. Sharon Swanson, SDC
18. Debbie Driver, HDC
19. Dana Quam, HRC

WHAT IS THE PROJECT?

The Project **IS**:

- Unified Database of Crossings
- Development of a Prioritization Process Framework
- Commodity Neutral

The Project **IS NOT**:

- Development and Ranking of a Project List
- Funding Request

WHAT ARE ROAD-RAIL CONFLICTS?

Locations where rail lines and roadways intersect

Example Types of Conflicts:

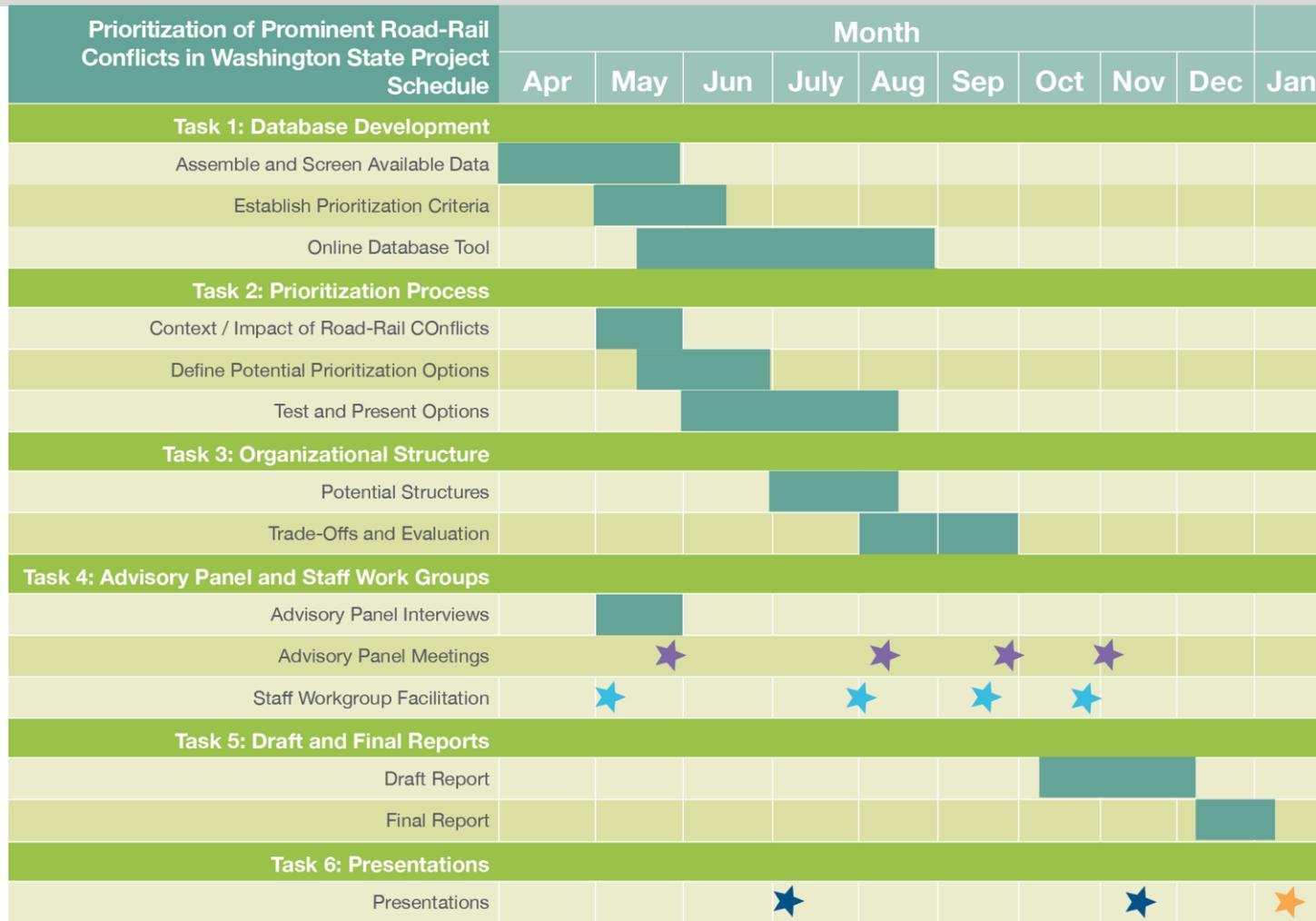
- Collisions between trains and vehicles/pedestrians
- Long and unpredictable travel delays for both the general public and freight users
- Temporary impacts to emergency vehicle routing

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- Understand Current and Future Mobility, Community Impacts, and Safety Problems
- Understand and Apply State, Local, and Private Policy Interests
- Develop a Criteria-Based Prioritization Process

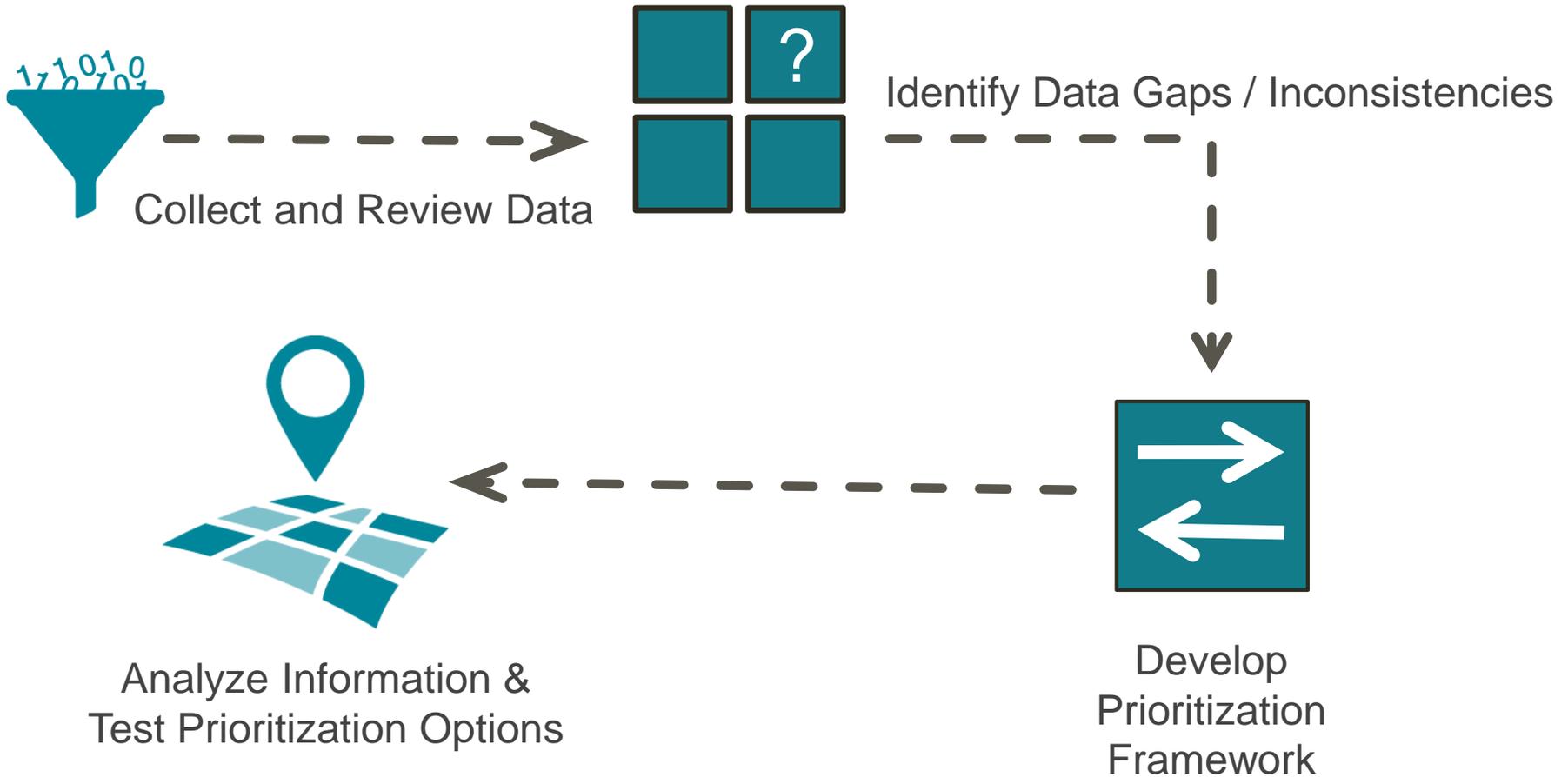


SCHEDULE



- ★ Advisory Panel Meeting
- ★ Staff Workgroup
- ★ Presentation
- ★ Presentation During 2017 Legislative Session

WORK PROGRAM APPROACH



MAJOR DELIVERABLES BY TASK

1

- Online database tool
- Database documentation

2

- Documentation on background and problem statement
- Summary and evaluation of prioritization

3

- Documentation on potential organizational structures

4

- Advisory Panel interviews
- Advisory panel meeting materials
- Staff Workgroup meeting materials

5

- Draft report
- Draft Final Report

6

- Presentations (2) to the JTC
- A presentation to House and Senate Transportation Committees in 2017

ALIGN DATABASE TO PROJECT GOALS

Project Goal

Strategy

Understand Current and Future Mobility, Community Impacts, and Safety Problems



Collect and Review Data

- Develop database
- Prepare mapping tool

Develop a Criteria-Based Prioritization Process



Classify, Weight, Score, & Display

- Determine appropriate inputs & scoring
- Publish results to web map for all to view & comment

Understand & Apply State, Local, and Private Policy Interests



Filter Priorities by Interests

- Apply local, state, & private criteria
- Provide web platform for local discussions

DATA SOURCES



RTPOs/MPOs

Cities/Counties

Pacific Northwest

Marine Cargo Forecast



TYPICAL DATA LIMITATIONS

- Not readily available
- Outdated data
- Inconsistent sourcing and not available for all crossings
- Real-world fluctuations not reflected in data

TYPES OF DATA

Data/Criterion	Possible Measurement	State, Local, and/or Private Entity Policy Interest
Level 1 Criteria		
Class I, II, or III Railroad Classification	Classification	State
Vehicle Volumes	ADT; AADT	Local
Rail Volumes/Frequencies	Daily Train Traffic	Local
Presence of Unit Trains	Presence of Potential Activity	State, local, private entity
Crossing Exposure Factor	Trains per day by average daily traffic at crossing	State, local
Previously Identified Project	Yes or no: previously identified project	State, local
Traffic Impact	Measure of roadway classification and population/employment density	Local
Level 2 Criteria		
General Purpose Delay/Gate-Down Time	Total Daily Gate-Down Time; Marginal Increase in Gate-Down Time	State, local
Freight Truck Delay	Freight Truck Percentage	State, local, private entity
Roadway Freight Classification	Roadway Freight Classification	State
Emergency Vehicle Access	Proximity to fire station, police station, or hospital; network redundancy; proximity to grade-separated crossing	Local
Collision History	5-year collision history; accidents per million entering vehicles; accidents per thousand entering trains	State, local
Safety Enhancement/Level of Protection	Type of Enhancement (active vs passive)	Local
Proximity to Ports and Intermodal Facilities	Proximity to facilities	State, local, private entity
Located on State Highway	State highway classification	State
Environmental Impact	Proximity to aquatic sensitive areas, shorelines, lakes, protected lands	State, local
Social Equity Impacts	Proximity to minority populations; proximity to low-income populations	State, local

PROPOSED DATABASE STRUCTURE

Data/Information for Each Crossing

At-Grade Crossings

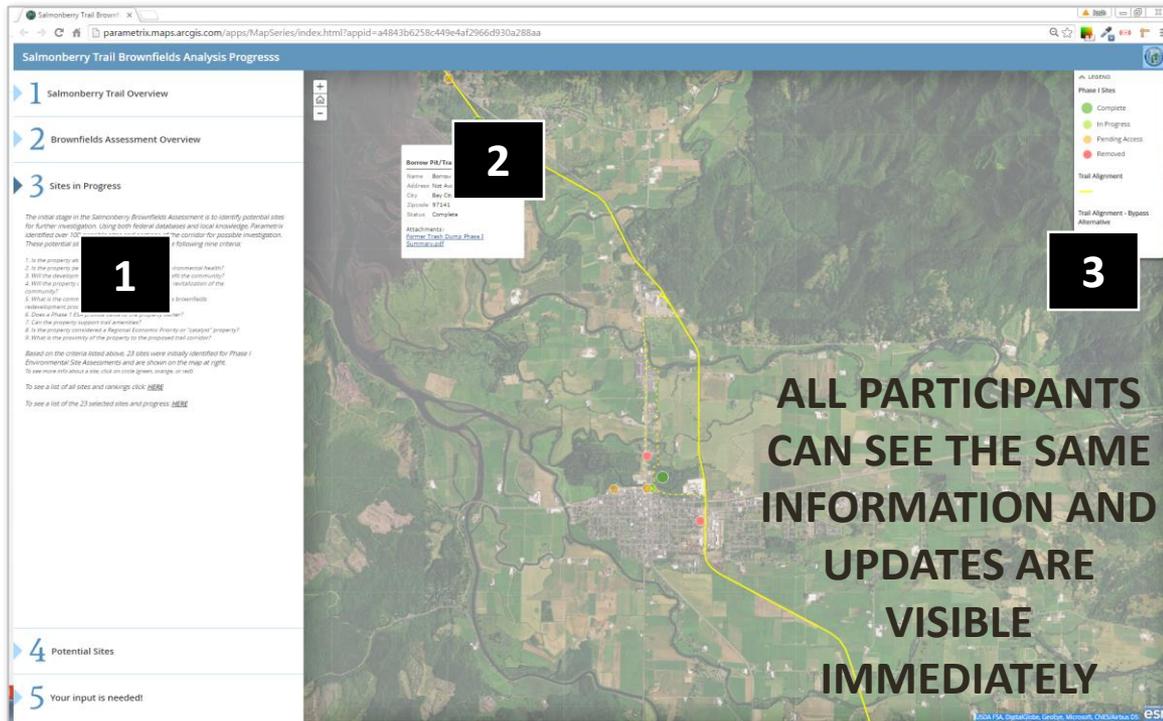
USDOT Crossing Number	City	Railroad Class	Vehicle Volume	Train Volume
XXXXXX	Seattle	I	50,000	30
XXXXXX	Tacoma	I	26,000	28
XXXXXX	Spokane	I	16,000	30
XXXXXX	Ellensburg	III	8,000	24
XXXXXX	Yakima	I	6,500	20

DATABASE IS AN EXCEL SPREADSHEET

Locational information (latitude/longitude) used to link to ESRI GIS software

MAPPING TOOL

The project will use one or more web maps to present spatial and tabular data for each rail crossing. Depending on the task, web maps will be used to tell a story, review information, or gather input.



EXAMPLE USES

- 1** Use a narrative alongside the map to convey information to the team or the public.
- 2** Embed information for each location that can be viewed with a click or exported as a table.
- 3** Show criteria and prioritization visually in the same map or on several maps.



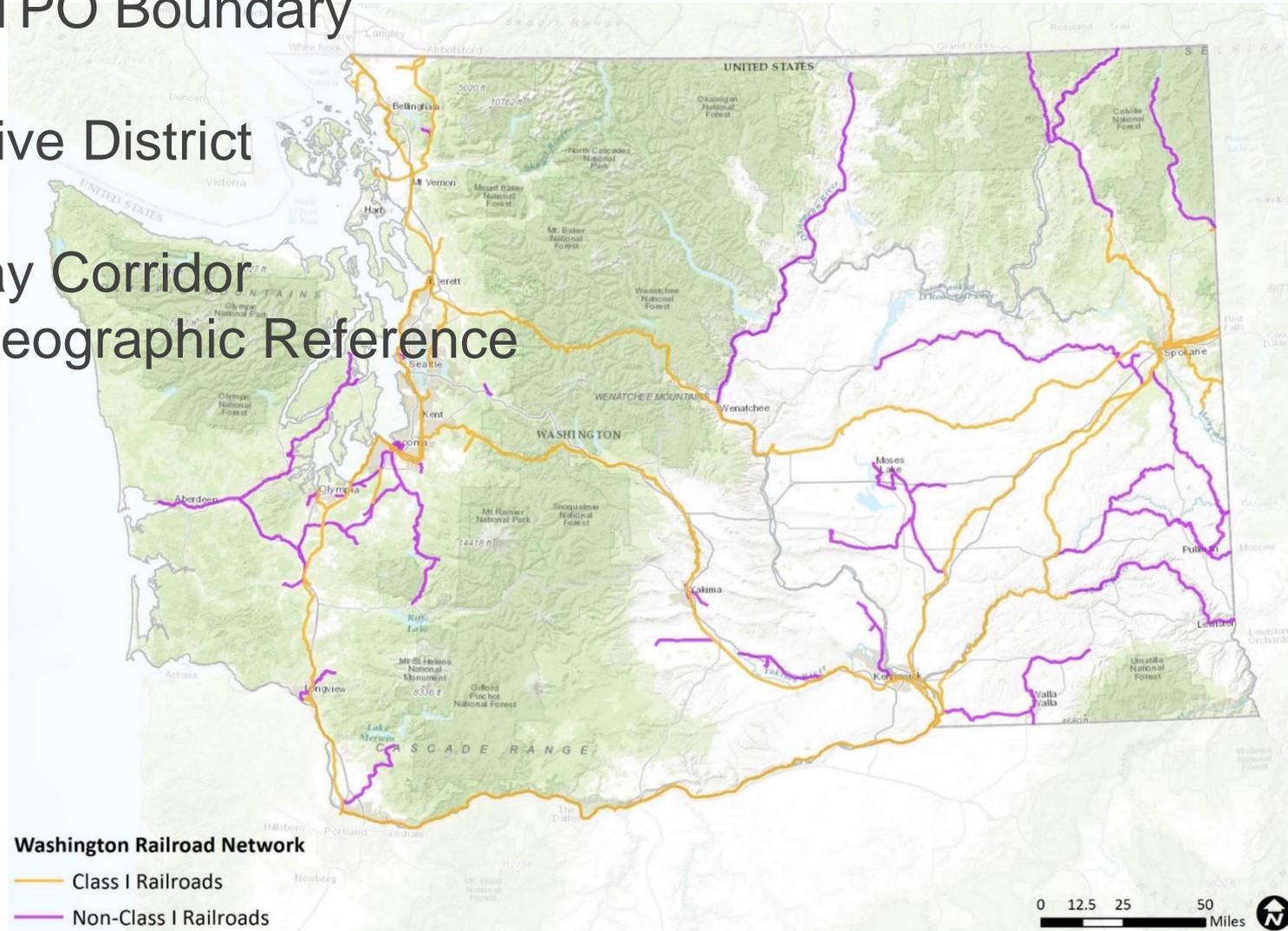
KEY QUESTIONS AND ISSUES

- What should the key objectives of a prioritization process be?
- How do we maintain a systems (statewide) perspective?
 - For example, how should corridors be defined?
- What are some of the tradeoffs likely to be?

HOW SHOULD CORRIDORS BE DEFINED?

Example Approaches:

- By MPO/RTPO Boundary
- By County
- By Legislative District
- By City
- By Roadway Corridor
- By Other Geographic Reference



ADVISORY PANEL MEETINGS

August 2nd (10:00am to 4:00pm)

Location: Seatac, The Conference Center at Sea-Tac Airport

September 28th (10:00am to 4:00pm)

Location: Seatac, Meeting Room TBD

November 2nd (10:00am to 3:00pm)

Location: Olympia, John A. Cherberg Building Room ABC

FREIGHT USERS PANEL

Concept: 3-5 representatives from the freight community will participate in a panel at the August 2 meeting

Purpose: Expand perspectives on road rail conflicts and why they are critical to address

Questions for the Advisory Panel:

- What questions would you have for the Freight User Panel?
- Given these questions, do you have suggestions for participants?



ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

What should we keep in mind as we continue our work?

What questions do you have?

Other comments and suggestions?



MORE INFO

<http://leg.wa.gov/JTC/Pages/Road-Rail-Study.aspx>

Beth Redfield

JTC Project Manager

360.786.7327

beth.redfield@leg.wa.gov

Jon Pascal, PE, PTOE

Consultant Project Manager

425.896.5219

jon.pascal@transpogroup.com